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Wednesday, 01 Sha'ban 1428

There is no doubt whatsoever that this essay is going to provoke both positive and negative responses from people.

“Narrated Anas ibn Malik:

One day when the Messenger of Allah was sitting amongst us, he dozed off. He then raised his head, said: “What has happened?” We said: “A Surah has just been revealed to me, and then recited: ‘In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful’.” He said: A Surah has just been revealed to me, and then recited: ‘In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful’.” (Sahih Muslim)

The implication of this Hadith is that those who change the religion that was left by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) will be punished.

Let us also recall another prophecy concerning the alarming extent to which Muslims would deviate from the true path:

“Narrated Abdullah ibn Amr: Allah’s Messenger said: There will befall my Ummah exactly (all those) evils which befell the Ummahs before you.” (Bukhari)

What should we do if we Muslims are to protect ourselves and our religion at that time of abandonment of the true path?

“Narrated Ali ibn Abi Talib: Al-Harith al-A’war: While passing through the Masjid I found the people engraving on the walls of the Masjid. I asked them: What are you doing? They said: We are writing the names of the Prophets. I said: You are not allowed to do that. They said: Why not? I said: Because Allah’s Messenger forbade us to do that. They said: Allah’s Messenger forbade us to do that? I said: Yes. They said: Then we will do it. I asked them: What is the reason? They said: We have seen that the people of the previous Ummahs did the same thing. (Sunan Tirmidhi)

The Qur'an, in turn, has asked us to hold fast to the Sunnah (way) of the Prophet:

“You have indeed in the Messenger of Allah an excellent model (of conduct) for any one whose hope is in Allah and His messenger. (Qur'an, al-Ahzab, 33:21)

And so, it is with the Book *the Ahl al-Bayt and the Sons of the Prophets* and the Sunnah of the Prophet and the Ahl al-Bayt.

## A DANGEROUS MISTAKE FOR WHICH WE WILL PAY DEARLY

Prophet Muhammad warned his followers: *women must not enter the Masjid/Mosque* (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

And yet, despite the clear orders of the Prophet concerning the rights of Muslim women in the house of Allah,

But the deprivation of Muslim women's rights is not limited to their exclusion from the House of Allah. Even

But Prophet Muhammad very clearly placed men and women in the Masjid to pray 'in the same space' without

Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet said: "The best row for the men (in the Masjid) is the first (row) and the best row for the women is the last (row)." (Sahih Muslim)

It is quite clear from the above Hadith that men are supposed to first fill the front row in the Masjid, and then

"Narrated Asma' daughter of Abu Bakr: I heard the Messenger of Allah say: One of you who believes in me should let me be the first to enter the Masjid." (Sunan Abu Daud)

The inescapable implication of both the above Ahadith is that women prayed in the Prophet's Masjid in the front row.

The remedy for the present situation in which women are deprived of their rights, even in the house of Allah,